

# Editorial

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## With sense of justice

Towards mid-May, we received the news that Brazil's SciELO Consultative Committee has granted a positive opinion about *Bioethics Journal (Revista Bioética)* entry in such database. The ones who were the responsible for requesting the inclusion in SciELO have committed themselves to send a report with actions to be taken, in order to implement the process which we believe that could be completed in this second half of 2013.

Thus, we can celebrate. *Bioethics Journal (Revista Bioética)* makes an old dream of specialists come true which is counting on a publication indexed in this database. And such conquest is about to happen.

However, in this celebration moment, it is necessary to remember the past, which is the way of every present. Without mentioning all the names and each one of the several actors, it is also necessary to thank the visionary initiative of creating the periodic; the editorial effort to publish the first numbers; as well as the militancy of all the ones concerned, authors and editors, in order to make this initiative as a reality.

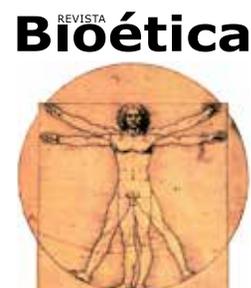
This pioneer undertaking of Brazilian Bioethics can be analyzed by its reflection, based on the discussions and the themes of the issues published in the first decade. That conquest deserved an early recognition, such as from Lilacs, which has contributed to place the periodic in a prominent position since the beginning. The quality certification – which was given by that basis – has crowned the publication.

But, if the triumphs are unquestionable, we should not only praise them. As all the things which are alive, *Bioethics Journal* has gone through a period of losses. With the end of biannual frequency in 2004, the publication missed the opportunity of being indexed in Lilacs, in 2006. Due to this adverse condition, the papers submitted for publication have ceased and the collaborators, who have supported the periodic with their regular academic production, have dispersed.

In this meantime, in parallel, the norms and criteria to index journals also improved, based on internationally agreed rules. By instituting strict standards, which are about both matching the form and improving content, such changes have profoundly altered the context of scientific publication in Brazil.

The return to the privileged point achieved from its emergence was a slow process; it was so hard that each step was seen as a real achievement. A joint effort of the Brazilian bioethical community was necessary in this journal, surpassing personal, institutional, partisan, theoretical and conceptual interests. Under the condition of authors or assessors, they have contributed with competence and strictness for the selection and improvement of the published works. The articulation regarding *Bioethics Journal* has reflected the consensus of Bioethics researchers on representativeness and respectability of the publication.

All this support has contributed significantly to resumption and the subsequent acceleration of productivity, either by the increase of frequency (from biannual to three times a year) or in the expansion of each number, which gradually reached a total of 20 papers in 2013. The decision of CFM, in 2007, to professionalize the editorial process was also crucial, since these conditions were necessary to the republication of the journal. Even if it is a commonplace, it is important to emphasize that the main responsible for writing this Phoenix story was the consensus.



The importance of consensus to recognize the quality of Bioethics Journal meets the social context which the country is inserted, by expressing clearly and publicly *opinions, thoughts, feelings and beliefs of the collectivity*<sup>1</sup>. In other words, it is when the moral consensus of the nation can be found in the streets. .

Both in urban centers and in rural areas (as well as in social networks and blogs) people express their indignation and tiredness regarding the disrespect to the popular will. Brazilian people do not want to live with corruption anymore, either in personal perspective, or in the institutional dimension, by taking into account the three instances of political power, as well as their instances of representation. The awakening of Brazilians reveals, paradoxically, uprising and hope – which allows glimpsing that, while they are moral patients, people are alive and start to imagine that there is a cure perspective.

At the moment when we wrote this editorial, the streets still roar almost the same as the problems which induced this clamor are urgent. We do not know which result will come from the movement of the people or what shall happen with their voices. But, independently of the result, we can note that Brazilian movement caused the social awareness. Going to the streets has instigated the reflection and the discussion about the mistakes of national life.

Through posters and slogans, we show our morality in front of the corruption practiced by the powerful: we are not conniving. We tried to explain our ideas by ordering them into objective slogans and indicating our priorities – health, education and political representation. We also showed that thing which inspires our repudiation: the PEC 37, the oblivion of *Lei da Ficha Limpa* – Law of the Clean Records – (Complementary Law 135/10)<sup>2</sup> and even the composition and agenda of Commission for Human Rights and Minorities of the House of Representatives.

The clamor of the first ones show what we want besides eating: the full functioning of Unified Health System (*Sistema Único de Saúde*), according to the ordering principles defined in the Organic Law of the Health (Law 8,080/90)<sup>3</sup>; the promotion of education in all levels, with emphasis to the children formation and the improvement of curriculums and professionals in the first school years.

The pleading expressed by society is extended to the political representation. The clamor seems to indicate that people no longer believe in plenipotentiary representation, which is sought to establish (by different ways) mechanisms regarding to regulate the power of the representatives. Among these ones are those specifically intended to take forward in terms of improving the representativeness: the instruments of direct deliberation, such as plebiscite.

The new features pointed out by these consensuses indicate that Brazilian society is growing up but they preserve their sense of justice and their indignation – which designed the ethical guidelines of the Constitution of 1988. The assumptions for the full exercise of citizenship designed on the constitution are now, 25 years after, complaints which the population wants them to come true in their daily life. This is also the omen of the editors, team and editorial body of *Bioethics Journal*, who desire a future ethically sustainable for everyone.

The editors

## References

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